

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system having a set top box receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided to the set top box in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, a method for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, and thereby also permitting display of one of the recorded channels while recording another one of the selected channels, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving at the set top box a multiplexed signal containing multiple channels of digital programming content, which is comprised of any or any combination of satellite transmissions, cable television transmissions, local television transmissions, radio transmissions, Internet data, video streams, or audio streams, or any combination of satellite transmissions, cable television transmissions, local television transmissions, radio transmissions, Internet data, video streams, or audio streams with MPEG video or audio, and wherein the digital programming content is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider, and wherein the set top box comprises a single tuner~~digital format of at least one channel is other than MPEG;~~

in the set top box, isolating and thereby selecting the at least one first channel from the multiple channels of the digital programming content, wherein isolating and selecting the first channel includes:

with the single tuner and a demodulator, tuning the multiplexed signal and producing a multiplexed transport stream comprising audio, video and data packets associated with at least the first channel; and

with a tuner, demodulator and transport demultiplexer of the set top box receiver, demultiplexing the multiplexed transport stream output by the demodulator to isolate the selected first channel wherein the multiple channels have content encoded in a plurality of digital formats;

sending digital content of the ~~at least one~~first channel from the transport demultiplexer to a storage medium in the set top box and storing the digital content of the ~~at least one~~first channel on ~~a the~~ storage medium without decoding it so as to store it using the same digital format with

which the ~~at least one~~first channel was received at the set top box in order to store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it, ~~wherein the transport demultiplexer can send digital content in the plurality of digital formats;~~

retrieving digital content of a second channel from the storage medium, wherein digital content of the second channel ~~that~~ has previously been stored prior to decoding;

decoding the previously stored digital content of the second channel into an analog format for display at a display device while storing the digital content of the ~~at least one~~first channel on the storage medium; and

displaying the decoded analog format of the content of the second channel on the display device.

2-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in ~~claim 10~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least ~~one~~ the first channel is compressed.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in ~~claim 13~~ claim 1, wherein the act of displaying the at least one channel further comprises the act of decoding the at least one channel with a decoder, ~~wherein the decoder produces video output and audio outputs.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in ~~claim 10~~ claim 1, ~~further comprising the acts of wherein :~~
decoding a second channel already recorded on the storage medium while the at least one channel is recording on the storage medium; and
——displaying the content of the second channel is performed while storing the digital content of the first channel on the storage medium.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) In a system ~~having a set top box for~~ receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided ~~to the set top box~~ in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, an apparatus for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, the apparatus comprising:

an entertainment system for receiving, isolating and storing a first channel of digital programming content while decoding a second channel of digital programming content, the entertainment system comprising:

a display device for displaying programming content of a selected channel; and

a set top box configured to isolate a first channel of digital programming content and display the first channel or a second channel on the display device, the set top box including:

a single tuner and a demodulator adapted for receiving and operating on a multiplexed signal containing the digital programming content to identify multiple channels within the multiplexed signal and which contained by the digital programming content, wherein the demodulator is adapted to produce a multiplexed transport stream comprising audio, video and data packets associated with a plurality of channels and wherein the content of each channel is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider and wherein the digital format of at least one channel is other than MPEG;

a transport demultiplexer coupled to the output of the demodulator and adapted to receive the multiplexed transport stream and demultiplex the multiple plurality of channels of the transport stream in order to permit selection of the at least one first channel, the transport demultiplexer being capable of selecting a channel encoded in a plurality of digital formats; and

a storage device coupled to the transport for recording the at least one first channel without decoding it so as to store it using the same digital format with which the at least one channel was received at the set top box and in order to store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it, wherein storage device can receive content encoded in any of the plurality of digital formats from the transport demultiplexer; and

a decoder connected to the storage device for decoding digital programming content of the second channel, wherein the digital programming content of the second

channel was stored on the storage device prior to decoding, and the decoder is adapted to decode the digital programming content of the second channel into an analog format at the same time that the storage device records the first channel.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, ~~further comprising a wherein~~ the decoder that is connected to the storage medium device such that a previously recorded channel may be decoded and is adapted to display the second channel on a ~~the~~ display device while the at least one selected first channel is recorded on the storage ~~medium device~~.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 19, wherein the decoder is also coupled to the transport so that a selected first channel output from the ~~transponder-transport demultiplexer~~ may be simultaneously directed to both the storage ~~medium device~~ for recording and to the decoder for display of the selected channel as it is recorded.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, further comprising a conditional access system for determining whether a selected channel may be displayed.